

Accolades

Kudos to the Office of Educational Development (OED) Educators Academy and the Teaching Scholars Program — Dr. Gardner recently received an email from a Teaching Scholars Program and the Educators Academy participant praising the programs for assistance in strengthening the participant’s teaching skills. The email said in part, “I honestly can say that the supportive, informative, encouraging mentorship of the OED program/department has given me the assistance I needed to become the best teacher and scholar that I can be. Particularly I have interacted extensively with Dr. **Laura Smith-Olinde**, Dr. **Mike Anders**, **Florentina Gamalie**, and **Bonnie Kenney**. They all have gone out of their way to help me in any way needed and I feel they have helped form me as an educator.”

Michael Anders, Ph.D., of the Office of Educational Development, is among an interprofessional team of authors of a peer-reviewed publication, “[Randomized Controlled Simulation Trial to Compare Transfer Procedures for Emergency Cesarean](#).” The first author is Jill Myhre, M.D. of the College of Medicine. Other coauthors are Nicole Ward, Ph.D., APRN, WHNP-BC and Teresa Whited, DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC of the College of Nursing.

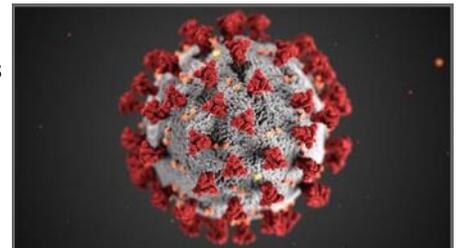
Lindsay Blake, MLIS, AHIP, clinical services librarian, UAMS Library, collaborated with former UAMS team member Alice Jagers, MSLS, graphic medicine specialist, on an article titled “[Touring Arkansas: A Statewide Project to Instruct Nurses and Patient Educators on Consumer Health Resources](#),” published in *Journal of Consumer Health on the Internet*, [Volume 24 Issue 1](#). The article described an outreach initiative developed to provide training in locating

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Academic Affairs Active in Online Education Transition, COVID Response

The Division of Academic Affairs joined the larger UAMS response to COVID-19 in March. The work included aiding the quick transition to all online educational activities, setting up a system for employees volunteers at health screening locations on campus, volunteering at those locations or in many other ways as the institution adjusted to the public health emergency.

UAMS announced March 12 that it would send students home and move all educational activities online, one day after the first case of COVID-19 was reported in Arkansas. Planning was already underway for a transition to online education in anticipation of the need but it quickly accelerated.



Courses and academic programs that were not already online moved to online instruction by return from Spring Break using Blackboard, Collaborate, Zoom and other education technologies.

“The work is ongoing and the situation continues to evolve, but our Academic Affairs team — along with the rest of Team UAMS — have done fantastic work in a short amount of time,” said Provost Stephanie Gardner, Pharm.D., Ed.D., who was out of the country on a previously scheduled accreditation site visit at the time. “It was unnerving to see this situation unfold while so far from home but I had every confidence in the leadership of our associate provosts and that our group would do whatever was needed to support the UAMS mission.”

Information Technology and the Office of Educational Development (OED) teamed up to develop a one-stop shop for students, faculty and staff seeking technology support for remote teaching, studying or working.

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Commencement 2020 Canceled

With regret, UAMS has canceled its 2020 Commencement ceremony, originally scheduled for May 16.

Each college and the Graduate School will determine any alternative methods of celebration and communicate those plans to their programs. Specific information on processing for regalia and other commencement-related issues will be announced as those decisions are finalized.

News from Academic Affairs

March 2020 Newsletter

News from Academic Affairs is published bimonthly (six times annually) by the Office of the Provost to inform students, faculty and staff about programs and support provided by the Division of Academic Affairs and to highlight UAMS initiatives beneficial to students and faculty.

Stephanie F. Gardner, Pharm.D., Ed.D.
Provost and Chief Strategy Officer

Departments in the Division of Academic Affairs

Enrollment Services

- [Office of the University Registrar](#)
- [Commencement](#)

Institutional Research, Policy and Accreditation

- [Academic Administration](#)
- [Institutional Studies](#)

Society and Health

- [Office of Interprofessional Education](#)
- [12th Street Health and Wellness Center](#)
- [Center for Patients and Families](#) (on-campus)

Student Services

- [UAMS Library](#)
- [Campus Life and Student Support Services](#)
- [Student Success Center](#)

Teaching and Learning Support

- [Office of Academic Services](#)
- [Centers for Simulation Education](#)
- [Office of Educational Development](#)

[Arkansas Commission on Child Abuse, Rape and Domestic Violence](#)

[Center for Health Literacy](#)

[Faculty Center](#)

[Office of Continuing Education](#)

Office of Strategy Management

Questions? Comments?

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Academic Affairs

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A Message from the Provost

As UAMS quickly moved its educational activities online in March due to the COVID outbreak reaching the state, it could easily have been a time of panic and problems.



Dr. Stephanie Gardner

There were so many things that could have gone wrong, hampering our faculty or our students. And while there are challenges, the transition to completely online delivery via Blackboard, Zoom and other platforms has gone remarkably well.

What strikes me about this success is that it shows that our division's work have helped prepare the university for this emergency situation.

Teamwork has never been more important. Our interprofessional program has engendered the kind of community spirit across our colleges and academic programs that aided the work in our education mission. It also helped for collaboration with the clinical enterprise to organize the campus health screenings and mechanism to enlist employee volunteers to staff those locations.

Simulation education has been a valuable resource in our academic programs and in continuing education. As we prepare our clinical staff to care for COVID patients, our simulation education team will be critical.

Telehealth can no longer be thought of as a specialized service to augment in-person care. Its importance as a primary tool to reach patients will only increase due to this experience.

We are fortunate to have many education **innovators** across UAMS — some faculty have been teaching online for years. We also have a talented network of academic technology support — such as the eLearning and IT teams — that allowed us to pivot and accommodate a sudden move online for all educational activities.

There's a quote attributed to Benjamin Franklin: "By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail."

I believe in our response to this emergency situation, UAMS has proven that it had preparations in place to react to a rapidly changing crisis.

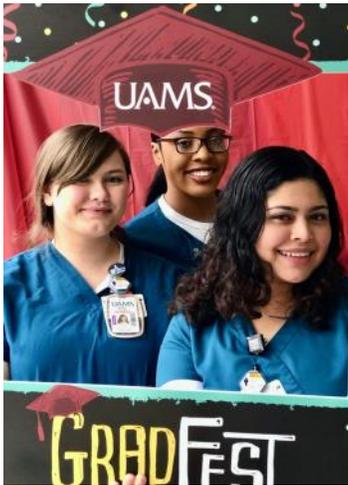
Stay safe and support one another in the weeks and months ahead as we weather the many challenges associated with the COVID outbreak.

Commencement

GradFest Brings Students and Campus Groups Together

The Third Annual GradFest held Feb. 20 in the Student Center again was packed with students getting ready for graduation.

Sponsored by Commencement and the Office of Campus Life, it was a chance for graduates and third-year students to get professional headshot photos taken, receive debt management counseling, and make appointments for resume review and counseling.



Some medical sonography students smile for the camera at the GradFest photo booth.

Many students ordered commencement regalia on-site and got a "checklist" of graduation requirements. Representatives from all five colleges and the Graduate School were present, as well as other campus groups to provide support and networking opportunities.

Organizers Cheri Goforth Warmack and Dana Venhaus report receiving many thanks from students as

well as participating groups. "This event provides students the opportunity to make final preparations and also, celebrate their years of hard work. It is always a pleasure to see campus groups come together in support of our students," Warmack said.

A GradFest event was scheduled for the Northwest campus March 13, but cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns.

"We had planned the same type of event and were thrilled with the support and participation from everyone across the board. Hopefully we can make this happen on the Northwest Campus next year," Venhaus said.



UAMS hosted its annual GradFest celebration in February, offering a one-stop shop for commencement resources for students. A first GradFest was scheduled for March on the Northwest Arkansas Campus but had to be canceled due to COVID-19 concerns. GradFest is sponsored by Commencement and the Office of Campus Life.



Campus Life and Student Support Services



Breakfast @ the Student Center

Each semester Campus Life hosts "Breakfast @ the Student Center." UAMS Local Grounds Café provides Starbucks coffee and lip-smacking, tasty pastries. Students line up early for this semester perk.



Valentine's Celebration

Our favorite local musician was back on campus with his steel drum for a special Valentine's Day performance.

As love songs filled the Student Center, students indulged in hot chocolate and Valentine cookies provided by our UAMS Local Grounds Café.

"Decisions, decisions, how many should I eat!"

Campus Life and Student Support Services



Valentine's Day at the Residence Hall

What is there not to like about Valentine's Day? Candy, flowers, and heart-shaped notes create a "feel good" atmosphere all around us.

The spirit of Valentine's Day was definitely on display at the residence hall, thanks to the dedicated team of RAs who spent time before classes, after classes and anytime in between making gift bags to deliver to all students and guests who reside in the residence hall. The RA team planned and executed this special delivery of "sweet treats."



Intramural Basketball

There were 12 teams competing for the coveted Basketball championship. This year's winners were a group from College of Medicine called The M-Wonders (left).

Throughout the season, action-packed Sunday basketball games were intense to watch, including the championship!



Center for Health Literacy

CHL Makes Patient and Community Resources Available

The UAMS Center for Health Literacy has developed several resources using health literacy and plain language best practices to engage patients and program participants in their own health by giving them needed communication skills.

Materials that are currently available include:

- *How to Talk to your Doctor HANDBook*: This book guides readers to use their hand as a pneumatic device to help them remember 5 skills to have a better visits with their primary care doctor. The Spanish companion document, *Cómo Hablar con Su Doctor El Manual*, won the ClearMark Award of Distinction and the Overall Spanish Category Grand Award from the Center for Plain Language.
- *How to Talk to Your Child's Doctor Handbook*: Similar to the goal of *How to Talk to Your Doctor*, this handbook teaches parents 4 steps to prepare for and get the most out of their visits by using the acronym S.T.A.R. There is also a Spanish companion for this book, *Cómo Hablar con el Doctor de Su Niño*.
- *Chronic Pain and What You Can do About It*: This interactive guide was developed in partnership with the UAMS Institute on Aging for adults with chronic pain. It covers tips on how to manage chronic pain with and without opioids, how to use opioids safely, and how to work with your doctor to manage your chronic pain.
- *How to Find Out About Your Health HANDBook*: This interactive book was designed to help patients find reliable health information online. The HANDBook is designed to be introduced by clinicians, who will encourage patients to learn more about a new diagnosis and provide patients with Internet search terms. It is also available in Spanish.
- *How to M.O.V.E. toward Emotional Wellness*: This new handbook was designed in partnership with the UAMS College of Public Health to help teens and adults of all emotional wellness levels learn how to maintain or improve their emotional wellness. It uses the acronym M.O.V.E. to help readers remember what they learned. A Spanish adaptation of this book is also available.



If you would like to learn more and see samples of the materials, visit: <https://healthliteracy.uams.edu/for-healthcare-professionals/patient-engagement-resources/>.

If you are interested in using these materials in a current or upcoming project, please e-mail us at healthliteracy@uams.edu. We actively seek grant funding to make copies of these materials available, so printed supply is variable. If you have another idea for a great resource like this for patients and community members, CHL would love to partner with you on a project to develop and field test it.

Office of Interprofessional Education

2020 IPE Small Grants Program Paused

This year's Interprofessional Education (IPE) Small Grants Program has been suspended at this time. April 1 was the submission deadline for this year's program, sponsored by the Office of Interprofessional Education in collaboration with the UAMS Integrated Clinical Enterprise.

"We were pleased to hear from colleagues preparing submissions. We hope everyone will keep working on these projects, as our intention is to resume the program with off-cycle awards this fall," said the joint announcement from Provost Stephanie Gardner, Pharm.D., Ed.D., and the IPE office directors, Kathryn (Kat) Neill, Pharm.D., associate provost for academics and Director of Interprofessional Administrative and Curricular Affairs, and Wendy Ward, Ph.D., director of Interprofessional Faculty Development.

Division of Academic Affairs

Academic Affairs Staff News

Margaret Glasgow, BSN, RNC-OB, recently became director of simulation education for the Centers for Simulation Education. She earned her nursing degree at UAMS in 1995, and worked at UAMS since then. She has held various positions within the Women and Infants Service Line of the Integrated Clinical Enterprise. She also has been a maternal outreach educator with the ANGELS program for the past five years. She has clinical instructor experience for both fetal heart monitoring and the Neonatal Resuscitation Program. She has worked with the Simulation Center to develop and present obstetric simulations to both UAMS and outside hospitals. Glasgow will manage day-to-day operations of the Centers for Simulation Education.

Andrew Warr recently joined the Centers for Simulation as a health care simulation specialist and an outreach specialist. He first came to the center as a standardized patient working with the Epic release. Prior to working for UAMS, he was an owner of a local music store and he worked in the industrial machine automation industry. He has a passion for audio engineering, which eats up a good portion of his time when not working for UAMS.

Jamie Thornton recently joined Team UAMS as a project coordinator, splitting time coordinating the Walker Student Clinical Education Center and the Interprofessional Education (IPE) program, both on the Northwest Arkansas Campus. He is responsible for tracking, planning, and troubleshooting activities within the Walker Center. He also is responsible for promoting, planning, executing, and reporting IPE events to ensure that students complete the IPE requirements in order to graduate from UAMS. He comes to UAMS as a native of Fayetteville and proud graduate of the University of Arkansas and avid Razorback fan. He has years of experience coordinating projects and managing programs, including his previous experience directing the nation's largest summer camp for kids with disabilities as part of the University of Arkansas research grant Arkansas Promise. Thornton and his wife Nicki, have two kids — nine-year-old Chanelle, and four-year old Smith.

William Wagner has joined the staff at the Centers for Simulation Education, Clinical Skills Center as a health care simulation educator. He will work with the online database system, Learning Space, which captures the entire student testing data. Wagner will set up and schedule testing and teaching events for learners, and also work with standardized patients and faculty. William previously worked with UALR Public Radio where he was operations coordinator for many years and also a master control operator at Clear Channel/Newport Television.

Zac Walthall, MLA, has joined the Office of Educational Development as a media production specialist. His master's degree in media will serve him well in his position, as his duties range from the development of promotional and educational materials to web management. "I'm excited to use my expertise to make the teaching and learning experiences at UAMS not only more effective but accessible to all those involved," Walthall said.

Accolades

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authoritative consumer health information resources for nurses and patient educators. The project was funded by the [National Network of Libraries of Medicine, South Central Region \(NNLM SCR\)](#).

A Little TNT — Residents and faculty at academic medical centers are called upon to teach the next generation of medical students, but many do not receive formal training in education. In the [newly published article](#) by Lindsey Sward, M.D., assistant professor and clerkship director in the College of Medicine's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Stanley Ellis, Ph.D., assistant professor and director of education in the UAMS Institute for Digital Health & Innovation, they discuss their educational initiative for OB/GYN residents and faculty called Teaching Now-Teaching, or TNT. The two-hour education seminar focuses on two easy teaching techniques. **Cynthia Mercado**, a research assistant in the Office of Educational Development, also contributed to the article in the online journal MedEdPublish.

Office of Educational Development

Educators Academy Grant Opportunity for Innovation Projects – Deadline Extended!

The OED Educators Academy is offering up to three \$2,500 Grants for Educational Innovation Projects to improve educational outcomes at UAMS. The Academy seeks projects that respond to trends in education such as active learning, education technologies, and interprofessional teaching. These awards are for pilot projects to enhance existing courses, develop new courses, develop new modes of instruction, evaluate instruction, or assess curricular needs.

The application deadline has been extended to May 1, 2020 and will be awarded July 1, 2020. The award period for these projects is July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021. For more information, email the Educators Academy at EdAcad@uams.edu.

OED eLearning Training Schedule Alters Due to COVID

The OED eLearning team is reworking its training schedule to accommodate training needs as UAMS education activities move online in response to COVID.

Topics offered include:

- Basic Blackboard (communication, adding content, and organization)
- Basic Blackboard Testing and Respondus Monitor
- Basic Collaborate Ultra (web conferencing)

More topics are being added, including:

- Building Interactivity in Blackboard Courses
- Blackboard Assignments and SafeAssign (anti Plagiarism tool)
- Blackboard Basic GradeCenter
- Blackboard Rubrics and Item Analysis for Blackboard Exams
- Collaborate Ultra Tools and Tricks for Interactivity
- Respondus Products for Exams (Lock Down Browser and Respondus Monitor – Proctoring students at home.



Blackboard

The training schedule will be posted on the front page of Blackboard to the right of the course list. All sessions are online. Participants should RSVP to CarleMarthaH@uams.edu to secure a spot. Participants will receive a calendar invite and link to join the session in Collaborate Ultra. Chrome and Firefox browsers are recommended.

If session times are inconvenient, faculty and staff may request a one-on-one online session by emailing BlackboardHelp@uams.edu.

COVID-19*Continued from Page 1*

From the IT Services page, https://uams.service-now.com/it_services?id=index, look for the "Remote Staff/Student/Faculty Support" link to access those resources.

The OED eLearning team handled many individual consultations with faculty members, said Steve Boone, Ph.D., assistant provost for teaching and learning and director of the Office of Educational Development. Between March 10-31, the team offered 22 contingency planning training sessions on Blackboard/Collaborate/Testing in Blackboard. From March 10-20, He said the team responded to more than 500 emails and/or phone calls as faculty and academic programs transitioned instruction online. The team also hosted three college or department level planning meetings devoted to online instruction.

"Our eLearning team has been working tirelessly to support our faculty and academic mission," Boone said. "They realized early in the month the impending consequences of the virus outbreak on teaching and learning, posting a blog on March 6 with guidance on contingency planning."

Read: <https://educationaldevelopment.uams.edu/2020/03/06/be-ready-prepare-a-backup-plan-for-teaching/>

OED staff also supported faculty members who wanted to record lectures or narrate PowerPoint presentations. This included creating a recording studio, setting up web cams, and helping faculty members record from their offices.

OED worked with IT to develop an easy-to-access document regarding use of all remote access tools that was sent to faculty and included on the remote teaching/studying/working site. Additional licenses for video conferencing application Zoom, along with more web cameras were purchased and a distribution mechanism was added online to ensure access to faculty needing a web cam. The Office of Academic Services, whose role includes managing campus classroom space, helped reconfigure space in the I. Dodd Wilson Building for an overflow call center answering the UAMS COVID-19 hotline.

The Center for Health Literacy is using their expertise in communicating health information in a way that is easy for all patients to read, understand, and act on by assessing and editing patient-facing materials created by the Office of Communications and Marketing.

Staff members from Academic Affairs units including Interprofessional Education, Simulation Center, and Institutional Reporting, Policy, and Accreditation worked with the Integrated Clinical Enterprise and with the Office of Communications and Marketing to set up an employee volunteer signup system to staff the health screening locations at campus entrances.

The UAMS Library is open during regular business hours but is available only for students, faculty and staff. Though since the Education II Building locked, those going to the Library must enter Ed II through the ground floor tunnel that connects to the Shorey Building. The Library's Education & Research Services group compiled virus resources that can be found at: library.uams.edu/uncategorized/coronavirus-information.

The Student Success Center, located in the Library, also remains available. Find information on their services at studentsuccess.uams.edu/ssc-services-available-during-covid-19.

"We've all heard the term 'all hands on deck' and this became one of those moments for UAMS," said Kathryn (Kat) Neill, Pharm.D., associate provost for academics and director of administration/curricular affairs in the Office of Interprofessional Education. "We had to ramp up activities quickly but there was always someone ready and willing to step in to do whatever was needed to make it work. Our teams demonstrated interprofessional collaborative creativity and productivity at it's best."

"I appreciate the talent and resilience that Academic Affairs and the UAMS family are demonstrating daily and the way everyone is coming together to continue to serve our mission to teach, to provide incredible care, and to create new knowledge and solve problems. In particular, thank you for your rapid responses to requests as we are meeting needs as they arise."

The resource page for remote teaching/studying/working at https://uams.service-now.com/it_services?id=index